



MEMORANDUM

TO: Indiana Superintendents, Principals and School Nurses)

FROM: Phyllis Lewis, Coordinator of Health Services

DATE: September 3, 2010

SUBJECT: Immunization Changes

The Department of Education received the following email from Dr. Joan Duwve, Medical Director Public Health and Preparedness Commission, informing the Office of Student Services about changes for the varicella vaccine requirement for preschool students attending accredited K-12 schools.

“After hearing from many physicians and school nurses about the confusion caused by the school requirement for preschool students attending programs in accredited K-12 schools to have 2 varicella vaccines, we have made the decision to change this to a **recommendation** instead of a requirement for this school year. I have attached letters explaining this change to school nurses and superintendents/principals, along with a revised quick reference chart. I am hoping you will be able to distribute this to the superintendents and principals using your SAMS/PAMS distribution system, and to school nurses via the listserv. We will use our database of school nurse email addresses to send the school nurse letter out, also. In addition, we will include this information in our vaccine newsletter, and distribute it to health departments and physicians.”

“The CDC Immunization Schedule states ‘the second dose (of varicella vaccine) may be administered before age 4, provided at least 3 months have elapsed since the first dose.’ However, the unintended consequence of this requirement for preschoolers has been confusion because it is outside the “routine” vaccination schedule recommended by the CDC. In response to these concerns, this **requirement** will be changed to a **recommendation**. This change has been reflected on the updated 2010-2011 Quick Reference Guide.”

I appreciate your tireless efforts in meeting the immunization requirements for this school year. Thank you. If you have any question please contact me at (317) 232-9142 or plewis@doe.in.gov